

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

Governor of the State of Texas

41-1067

REPRODUCED FROM THE
HOLDINGS OF THE
TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I disapprove, and am vetoing and filing with the Secretary of State Senate Bill 544. In my message to the Legislature on January 27, 1965 I stated that "any further disorderly multiplication of state-supported units of higher education will dangerously dilute our resources." The Committee on Education Beyond the High School included among the powers and functions of the proposed Coordinating Board the suggestion that the Board "recommend to the Legislature that, as a matter of policy, no junior college should be elevated to senior college status, but, if a senior college is needed, it shall be recommended by the Board." These observations are as valid today as they were at the times they were made.

This Bill changes Texarkana Junior College to Northeast Texas State College, a four-year senior college. This college is one of 8 public junior colleges located "immediately adjacent to state boundary lines" and entitled to collect from non-resident students an amount equal to that charged students from Texas by similar schools in the non-resident's home state. No such reciprocity is permissible for a fully state-supported college; the impact on future enrollment cannot be predicted. Because of its location there is not a large Texas population base from which to draw students.

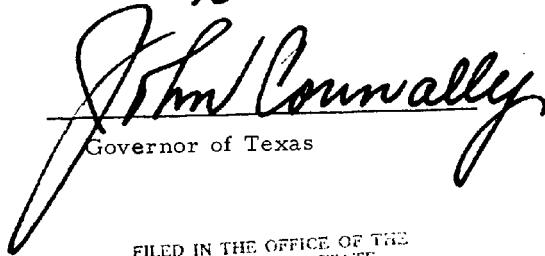
The establishment of additional fully state-supported institutions of higher education must be evaluated in terms of the needs of the entire State rather than those of a region or locality. Such determinations should be made without regard to the vitality or enthusiasm of any local community. The goal of excellence in education must have a higher priority than the economic advantages of any one geographical area. Effective coordination directed toward excellence requires restraint.

Today, 90 percent of all Texans reside within 100 miles of a fully state-supported senior college. There are 2 such institutions between 125 and 151 miles from Texarkana. Texas must decide how far it shall go in providing an opportunity for its citizens to attend college within commuting distance.

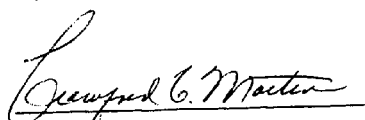
Regardless of the membership of the Coordinating Board, that Board might well regard the passage of Senate Bill 544 as a legislative mandate that Texarkana Junior College become a fully state-supported higher educational institution. In view of the duties and functions assigned the Board and the urgency of that assignment, I am unwilling to subject them to the pressures that will inevitably follow my signature on Senate Bill 544. My veto will not preclude Texarkana Junior College from applying to the Coordinating Board for a change in classification and consideration prior to the next legislative session, nor should this veto be construed as in any way prejudicial to such consideration and determination.

Senate Bill 544 was received in the Governor's Office on May 27, 1965, less than 10 days prior to the adjournment of the Regular Session of the 59th Legislature, and in accordance with Article IV, Section 14 of the Constitution of Texas, the Bill, together with this Proclamation, is filed with the Secretary of State.

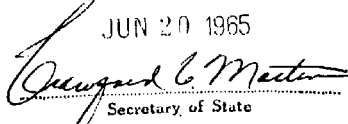
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I
have hereunto signed my name
officially and caused the seal of
State to be affixed hereto at
Austin this 18 day of June, 1965.


Governor of Texas

By the Governor:


Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
8:45 pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 1965

Secretary of State